GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1558
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2013
STUDY ON ASBESTOS MINING BY IBM
Choudhry Smt. Shruti

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) has conducted any study on the effect on the health of labourers engaged in asbestos mining;

(b) if so, the details and the findings/recommendations thereof;

(c) the follow-up action taken by the Government thereon;

(d) whether the guidelines for safeguard measures for asbestos mining have since been finalized and ban/restriction on its grant/renewal has been lifted;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which the same are likely to be finalized?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI DINSHA PATEL)

(a) to (f): A Science and Technology Project titled 'Study of Pollution Level in Asbestos Mines and processing plants in Rajasthan' was undertaken by Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), a subordinate office of the Ministry. The Study recommended that subject to imposition of safeguards on pollution level in work environment, the restrictions imposed on grant and renewal of mining leases and expansion of mining may be lifted.

Recommendations of the Study have been examined in consultation with all stake holders. Some stake holders have suggested that asbestos mining can be permitted with appropriate safeguards. IBM in consultation with Central Pollution Control Board and Directorate General of Mines Safety has prepared draft guidelines laying down the safeguards for mining of asbestos, which are in the process of finalisation in consultation with stakeholders. The restriction on grant/renewal of mining leases of asbestos cannot be lifted till the finalisation of guidelines.